

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5 and 7-16 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 9, 11, 13 and 15 being the independent claims. Claim 6 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. All remaining claims are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims were originally written in the German language. The claims were translated into the English language and filed with this National Phase application. The amended claims have, in parts, merely been rewritten from the translated version using more conventional U.S. claim language and to more succinctly claim that which the inventors believe to be their invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the original claims because the amendments merely state explicitly that which was implicit in the original claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and new claims add no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Bryan L. Skelton
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 50,893

Date: May 12, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

520533_1.DOC